

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 FEB 2006

Re point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 037 857 (BEHRENS ET AL) 14 March 2000 (2000-03-14)

1 The present application does not satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel within the meaning of PCT Article 33(2).

1.1 All of the features of independent claim 1 are disclosed in document D1 (the references in brackets relate to said document):

a) bus module (Figure 3, reference 30') for connecting an automation unit (Figure 2, reference 12) to a backplane bus which can be used to transport data and/or power (column 6, lines 4-7), with said bus module having at least one bus connecting device for connection to the backplane bus (column 6, lines 64-66) and

b) at least one unit connecting device (Figure 3, references 74, 76, 78) - including a serial optical interface - for connection to the automation unit, with the unit connecting device having a coupling element which can be used to set up a point-to-point communication link to the automation unit (column 11, lines 10-16)

2 The same grounds apply in a corresponding manner to independent claim 7. The subject matter of claim 7 is therefore not novel either (PCT Article 33(2)).

- 3 The additional features of dependent claims 2-6 and 8-10 are either likewise disclosed in D1 (PCT Article 33(2)) or else are customary measures in serial interfaces for automation units and therefore cannot be regarded as being inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).